



## TIME FOR TEAM AUCKLAND

With a stunning 5 nil win setting them up as challengers, NZCID Chief Executive Stephen Selwood says Team New Zealand could give its home city a much needed lesson in teamwork. Inward looking interests should be a thing of the past, he says, it's time Auckland started operating like the region it is.

The Auckland region is facing an unprecedented challenge. With an infrastructure funding deficit in the billions and increasing by the day, strong leadership is critical to meet the region's needs. Aucklanders are already paying a heavy price for local government complexity, duplication of services and the inability to reach agreement on major regional issues. Aucklanders could do much more with the money already raised in the region if complex and expensive governance structures are reformed.

Fundamental change is vital. The time is now to get it right for Auckland. Developing a single united leadership structure for the region will give all Aucklanders democracy, clear strategy, effective administration and world class services. Communities will find their voice and Aucklanders will be able to save significantly, at least \$200 million each year.

Why change?

Change now is vital. The way that our local government leads us is central to our quality of life. The supply of water, energy, transportation and communications underpin the quality of our health, education, agriculture, trade and commerce, personal safety and security, culture and entertainment. For Aucklanders, having a good standard of living and being able to make progress relies on several things. Our ability to:

- > Improve our productivity
- > Trade successfully in international markets
- > Attract international investment

Yet in Auckland local government is extremely complex. We are facing huge challenges which are frustrated even more by the governance situation.

There have already been a number of initiatives to try to get Auckland's eight local authorities to work together. Because the responsibilities for funding and delivery of regional infrastructure and facilities are split between a lot of independent parties, there has been no real success. The region is also facing a massive infrastructure funding gap, \$3.5 billion in roading and public transport alone.

The issues

Councils themselves have looked into the need to strengthen regional governance. They identified these issues:

- > Plans aren't integrated with each other, there are competing interests and there is no big picture for Auckland's priorities

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- > Fragmented powers and responsibilities mean strategies are not delivered on
- > Regional decisions are sometimes wrongly made nationally or locally
- > Joint decision making forums are heavily relied on but have little influence
- > Regional funding is not enough
- > Duplicating activities is wasteful and leads to inconsistent standards
- > No single organisation has full responsibility for the region's infrastructure
- > There is no united opinion from the people and no united voice for Auckland with central government

ONE AUCKLAND is a proposal to unite Auckland's councils and solve these problems so that Aucklanders can benefit.

#### Benefits at a glance

- > A unified vision, voice and leadership
- > Efficient and consistent service delivery across the region
- > Integrated decision making
- > Better local democracy to serve local communities
- > Better value for money

#### What is ONE AUCKLAND?

Developing a single united leadership structure for the Auckland region will give all Aucklanders democracy, clear strategy, effective administration and world class services. Communities will be able to have more direct say and funding and Aucklanders will be able to save significantly, at least \$200 million each year.

Under the proposed ONE AUCKLAND plan, rather than 8 local authorities duplicating services and operating independently with sometimes competing interests, a single organisation will provide direction, services and leadership across the region. ONE AUCKLAND would take full responsibility for all services currently provided across the 8 local authorities.

Within the organisation five service agencies would plan and provide transport, water services, economic development, regional parks and facilities, and regulatory and environmental services. Central and local government could then easily work together on shared strategy, This would provide certainty by committing funding well into the future.

Community councils would be based on current electorate boundaries. They will ensure community involvement and influence at the local level, a level where people feel they can influence decisions that impact on their everyday lives. Through their community council, communities will be able to have their views and needs heard in a real way.

#### Who will decide?

Given the region's current challenges, the Government believes governance reform is necessary. The Government has initiated a review which will report back on July 31st. Councils will have input but central government will make the final decision. Before then it is important Aucklanders have their say on this issue, the outcome will shape our future.

#### Find out more

ONE AUCKLAND is an initiative from the New Zealand Council of Infrastructure Development (NZCID). NZCID is a not for profit organisation which provides advocacy and research for infrastructure issues. NZCID members come from diverse sectors across New Zealand, infrastructure owners, service providers, public sector agencies, city councils and major infrastructure users.

We are currently meeting with those groups and individuals who are interested in having their say and finding out more about the ONE AUCKLAND proposal. If you would like to arrange a meeting to find

our more, please feel free to contact us on 09 358 7353 or [info@nzcid.org.nz](mailto:info@nzcid.org.nz).